

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for a cable modem termination system (CMTS) having front and rear sides, said front side accepting electronic circuit cards, electronic signals from which are transferred through connectors mounted at said rear side, ~~said connector panel~~ comprising:

a panel coupled to the rear side of the CMTS, said panel having at least one pair of first and second openings there through, said first and second openings being proximately located to one another;

a ~~first~~ connector extending through said first opening of the at least one pair of first and second openings and operationally coupled to a ~~first~~ corresponding electronic circuit card installed ~~in the CMTS~~ at the front side of the CMTS; and

a light source, visible through said second opening of the at least one pair of first and second openings in said panel, the illumination status of which is determined by said ~~first~~ corresponding electronic circuit card.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~first~~ connector is a coaxial cable connector.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source is remotely located from said second opening.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source is comprised of at least one light emitting diode.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source is an incandescent lamp.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source is comprised of an optical fiber.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source is a light pipe, optically coupling light from a light source to said second opening.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein different colors are illuminated from the light source to represent different types of channels.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of light sources are associated with each connector, wherein each light source associated with a connector is illuminated in different colors.

10. (Currently amended) A cable modem termination system (CMTS) having front and rear sides, said front side accepting electronic circuit cards, electronic signals

from which are transferred through connectors mounted at said rear side, said CMTS comprising:

a panel coupled to the rear side of the CMTS, said panel having at least one pair of first and second openings there through, said first and second openings being proximately located to one another;

a ~~first~~ connector extending through said first opening of the at least one pair of first and second openings and ~~an~~ operationally coupled to a first corresponding electronic circuit card installed ~~in the CMTS~~ at the front side of the CMTS; ~~and~~

a controller connected to said first electronic circuit card for determining the status of channels associated with said first electronic circuit card; [,] and

a light source, visible through said second opening of the at least one pair of first and second openings in said panel, the illumination status of which is determined by said controller.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said ~~first~~ connector is a coaxial cable connector.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said light source is remotely located from said second opening.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said light source is comprised of at least one light emitting diode.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said light source is an incandescent lamp.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said light source is comprised of an optical fiber.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said light source is a light pipe, optically coupling light from a light source to said second opening.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein different colors are illuminated from the light source to represent different types of channels.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein a plurality of light sources are associated with each connector, wherein each light source associated with a connector is illuminated in different colors.

19. (Currently amended) A cable modem termination system (CMTS) having front and rear sides, comprising:

a plurality of slots on said front side for accepting at least one electronic circuit card;

a plurality of ~~row~~ rows of connectors on said rear side, wherein each row of connectors corresponds to ~~connectors associated with each~~ a slot on the front side;

at least one light source associated with, and proximate to, each connector on the back side;

a controller connected to each slot for determining whether an electronic circuit card is installed into the corresponding slot on said front side, and if so, the status of one or more channels associated with said card, each channel corresponding to a connector in the row corresponding to the slot, wherein said controller sends a signal or signals corresponding to the status of the one or more channels to the respective light source or sources associated with the one or more corresponding connectors, wherein when an electronic circuit card is inserted into a slot the controller determines which channels are active and the type of channel required by the electronic circuit card and sends signals regarding the illumination status of said at least one light source associated with appropriate connectors.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said ~~first~~ connector is a coaxial cable connector.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said light source is remotely located from said second opening.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said light source is comprised of at least one light emitting diode.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said light source is an incandescent lamp.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said light source is comprised of an optical fiber.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said light source is a light pipe, optically coupling light from a light source to said second opening.

26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein different colors are illuminated from the light source to represent different types of channels.

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein a plurality of light sources are associated with each connector, wherein each light source associated with a connector is illuminated in different colors.